

## Speech & Drama Report 2023

The syllabus was completely rewritten for this year's Festival, combining Speech and Drama within the same Championships - with one Senior and one Junior Champion. We removed the classes which had no, or very few, entries over the last five years. We introduced some new classes and a new Championship for Duologue Classes.

This major re-write required a lot of computer input, which neither Cheryl nor I were confident to do. The usual person who does the Speech/Drama input was not available, so we had to manage it...which we eventually did with many thanks to Cheryl's husband, Phil.

The number of entries was managed in one very full day starting at 10am and ending at 5 pm. The timings were dictated by two things - the cost of an evening session at Kesgrave and the need to save hotel costs by convincing the adjudicator that she could travel both ways on that Sunday.

Our Adjudicator, Vivienne Redford was friendly to all - and her adjudications were helpful, encouraging and provided some challenges for future work. She encouraged entrants to return next year.

Our entries were less than expected due to a ski trip at Ipswich School and LAMDA examination clashes for Judith - who normally brings a large number of her pupils.

The move from October to Feb/March was not universally liked and was the reason for several to not take part. A questionnaire was prepared so that entrants/parents could give their opinions on the new timing and on the new syllabus. Unfortunately, only two were filled in and those that I e-mailed after the festival have not responded. Those who attended seemed happy.

The day was enjoyed by all, with one entrant who came for 2 classes staying for most of the day, determined to learn and come back next year.

One entrant had tested positive for covid 2 days prior to the Festival. We were able to include her in her actual slots with the aid of technology and a sympathetic adjudicator. Her teacher, Tara, also had covid and we missed the help that she always gives on the day. However, we were lucky to have Yvonne to help us and Angela in the morning. We were very grateful to Tim who manned reception all day and to Wendy who appeared with signs and removed them before we had finished the last adjudication. As always I am supported

enormously by Cheryl, who has now said she will take over the computer input for the syllabus.

Although we did not make any profit this year,, I am confident that if dates are given early enough to the 2 schools that were unable to attend this year, we will have a growing number of entrants.